SUBJECTS.

69. *Maintenance of the Cardamom Hill roads.*

Mr. V. A. Parameswara Menon (Member, Cardamom Ryots) said that, to the Cardamom ryots settling permanently in the several *Thavaloms*, the branch roads connecting them with the main road were the most useful. Till 1082, the maintenance of the branch roads was with the Cardamom Department and the roads were being kept in a proper condition. Ever since the transfer of the roads to the Public Works Department, no maintenance works were done, except on the main road, and it was the ryots that were now spending money out of their pockets and keeping them in a tolerably good condition. Except two maistries, there was no responsible officer of the Public Works Department stationed in the locality. The boundary roads between Travancore and British India were also not being annually cleared. The Member requested that the maintenance of the roads might be re-transferred to the Cardamom Department, at least for some years, the expenditure being, if necessary, charged to the Public Works Department.

Dewan's reply.—The attention of the Chief Engineer will be drawn to the matter.

(2) KOTTAYAM DIVISION.

70. *Facilities for communication in the Shertallai taluk.*

Mr. Kumaran Kochu Padmanabhan (Member, Shertallai Taluk) explained in detail the great inconvenience and difficulty experienced by the people of the taluk owing to the want of proper communications, and said that, since coming to Trivandrum, he had learnt with much pleasure that, as a result of their repeated representations, the Government had sanctioned the estimate for the construction of a canal from Shertallai to Alleppey. He therefore thanked the Government on behalf of the people of the taluk. Proceeding to the subject, he said that his suggestion was that a light railway might be opened from Alleppey to Arukutty. There existed at present a road in fairly good order and there was no need for acquiring any land. In view of the cost of the annual maintenance of the roads, which could be saved, and the increased facilities the railway would afford for trade and traffic, he said that the railway was sure to be a paying concern in the long run. The profit that went to the Steam Launch Company that plied daily between Alleppey and Cochin was also assured to the Government. During his inspection of the taluk, the late Dewan Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao found that, having regard to the condition of the taluk, a light-railway would be much better than a road or canal and be cheaper in the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly